

bring vital prevention education to more youth throughout San Diego County. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Victories of Spirit event, the recipients of the Victories of Spirit award, and all those who assisted in making this event a success.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 4262, THE
SOLVE ACT OF 2004

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4262, the SOLVE Act of 2004, that reforms our nation's immigration laws. This legislation was introduced yesterday by Congressman GUTIERREZ and I am proud to be one of its many original cosponsors.

This bill reunites families by reducing the years or decades of family separation caused by backlogs and harsh restrictions.

Under this bill, immigrants waiting more than 5 years will be given a visa outside the per-country limits. In addition, immediate relatives would no longer count against the 480,000 limit on family-based visas. If we truly value the family unit, we cannot keep in place policies that tear it apart.

We must reward work by granting immigrants who work hard and pay taxes the opportunity to earn a green card.

This bill will allow immigrants who have lived in the U.S. for 5 years and worked for 2 years to be eligible for legalization, including spouse and children.

Also, immigrants who have lived in the U.S. for less than 5 years would be eligible for a 3-year visa. The visa will allow immigrants to live, work, and travel legally in the U.S., and apply for a green card after two years of work history.

Congressman GUTIERREZ' bill respects workers by protecting wages and working conditions for U.S. workers.

This proposal creates a new visa for low-skilled workers, such as agricultural farm workers. These workers will be paid a prevailing wage so that Americans do not suffer from lower wages, and the bill makes sure companies hire American workers first.

The confusing system we have today is so difficult to navigate that it encourages many to immigrate illegally as a first resort.

According to the Department of Labor, our economy will need a stable supply of legal immigrants to maintain our economy.

Hospitals in California are importing nurses from South East Asia and Latin America because of a nursing shortage. Restaurants and other service jobs are hiring immigrants to fill in thousands of vacancies.

The fact is that we can reduce illegal immigration by having fair and reasonable immigration laws.

Our government must work hard to prevent people and businesses from violating our laws. That is why we must support comprehensive immigration reform.

Our current system loves immigrants one day and hates them the next. We need a system that is logical, orderly and sympathetic to human needs. This system forces the average Mexican and Filipino to wait over ten years before being reunited with their spouse.

Some people will claim that this bill opens our borders. That is false. The SOLVE Act simply brings order to an immigration system that is broken.

I urge my colleagues to support passage of this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF BROWN V. BOARD
OF EDUCATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce a resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision.

This month we honor and celebrate the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, a landmark decision that not only desegregated public schools, but led to the desegregation of every segment of our society. Half a century ago, on May 17, 1954, the Brown decision advanced the Constitutional principle that every American should be guaranteed equal protection of the laws.

In this decision, the United States Supreme Court declared, "in the field of public education, the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place." It was Brown that reversed Plessy v. Ferguson, the case that established this "separate but equal" doctrine, which stamped Africans Americans with a badge of inferiority as articulated by Judge John Marshall Harlan, the lone dissenter in Plessy.

Brown commenced an era that began to strip African Americans and other minorities of this badge of inferiority. With Brown, millions of minorities and women would be afforded educational opportunities. This decision also provided momentum to the Civil Rights Movement and this nation would come to realize change not just within the realm of education, but in other segments of society as well.

The Brown decision helped lead to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which advanced the idea that discrimination in the workplace and in public establishments would not be tolerated. The decision also helped lead to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which promotes every American's right to participate in the political process and the Fair Housing Act of 1968 which promotes equal and fair access to housing for every American.

Fifty years after Brown, however, the pursuit for equal rights and equal opportunity for every American citizen continues. This notion can best be evidenced by statistics that reflect the socio-economic disparities within the African American community:

In March 2004, the Department of Labor reported that 10 percent of African Americans were unemployed, compared to 5 percent of white Americans.

In 2003, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) or "the nation's report card" indicated that 60 percent of African American fourth graders were not reading at a fourth grade level, compared to 25 percent of white American fourth graders.

In 2003, the Kaiser Family Foundation estimated that 20 percent of African Americans were uninsured, compared to 12 percent of white Americans.

In 2003, United for a Fair Economy (UFE) reported that 24 percent of African Americans live in poverty, compared to 8 percent of white Americans.

It is because of such disparities that this resolution calls upon Congress to do more than celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Brown decision by noting its historical significance. This resolution asks Congress to renew its commitment to continuing and building on the legacy of Brown with a pledge to acknowledge and address the modern day disparities that perpetuate a separate and unequal society.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RUTH
SUMMONS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the life and memory of Ruth Summons. Ruth's long life of one hundred years saw many changes, and her kind soul touched many lives. Her journey ended in Colorado, a place that she loved dearly, and where she chose to spend her retirement. As her family and friends mourn her passing, I believe it appropriate to call to attention her legacy before this body of Congress and this nation today.

Ruth was born to a family of eight children in Louisiana, where she attended a one-room schoolhouse. Her adventurous spirit carried her to Texas for business school, and then on to Denver, where she worked as a secretary in a law firm for forty-seven years. Ruth met her husband Harold at a singles dance for seniors in Denver, and they married and moved to Grand Junction to enjoy their retirement. Ruth lived her life in such a way that her husband will forever remember her, saying: "there wasn't a better woman on Earth."

Mr. Speaker, Ruth Summons lived a long and full life, and she will be sorely missed by those fortunate to have known her. It is my honor to recognize her life before this body of Congress and this nation. I would like to extend my heartfelt respects to her family and friends during this difficult time of bereavement.

HONORING NORA BUTLER OF
CHICAGO

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to honor the contributions that Ms. Nora Butler, one of our most active community members, has made to the 36th Ward in the 5th Congressional District and Chicago's North Side.

At 91 years young, Ms. Butler still is going strong. She is an instrumental volunteer at Alderman William J.P. Banks' service office, and still serves as a precinct captain for the ward. Her boundless energy and enthusiasm during this past March's primary election would have been remarkable for someone even half her